# Features to consider for CD-ROM Whole Earth Catalog (Annotated 5/16/88)

## Interface changes

### Icon to tell what type item you are viewing

* not this time?

• *Do we want an icon(s) on the first card of a review to indicate what type of item is being read about? (eg. book, magazine, organization, tool, etc.) This is called into question since the picture of the item is on the Access card and when someone goes into a review, they might want a clue as to what they are reading about. This could be generated from one of the hidden fields on the access card(s) for that stack. one question is just where these icons would appear. Another alternative to this would be to have these icons all eppear on the cluster map next to each item's title.*

### New cluster map design

* KO to do basic design

Bullet/Bold

• *Tim Oren redesigned this map so that it can include anywhere from one to nine listings on a map, in any combination of items located in that cluster and cross references. The titles will each be in a field, and only the fields which are used will be visible. We need to decide if we want a graphic to appear on each of these cards, and we also need to decide on a graphic or type treatment which will distinguish cross references from items located in that actual cluster (this distinction might be accomplished by using bold-face type throughout all cards to indicate cross refs?)*

### New table of contents design

* KO todo (Hank recommended Don to help)

• *We have gotten feedback that this needs to be redesigned, to make use of the indexes clear and also to make access to the outline style Table of Contents and the Help system clear (also if we redivide Communications/Media/Music that will need to be taken into account).*

### New section backgrounds

* KO/Mark to do

• *At least two of our section backgrounds have been questioned: Health (a skeleton does not seem to work for many of the items in that section) and Nomadics (the sailboats are indecipherable to some people). Kathleen is willing to re-do these, but needs suggested replacements.*

### Buttons

#### Last card of item should include "next item" button

*

• *The last card of an item should include a button which allows you to go directly to the first card of the next item in that cluster, in addition to the current choice of looping around to the first card of the current item.*

#### Sound should only stop when button clicked a second time

• *When listening to a sound clip the pop-up caption feature should still work. It should require a click on the sound button, and not elsewhere, to kill the sound while it is playing.*

#### Placement of Sound buttons

just do

• *They should all be consistently placed (some are not, currently). Also, if there are to be cards accompanying a given sound (eg. a description of a record which carries over to a second card) duplicate sound buttons should be on both cards.*

Index button

Pull down menu?

• *Should there be a button on all cards (some cards?) giving people access to the index stack? How tobest implement?*

Revise access card

Decide on fields to include

Figure out what we can pull in fr. Library

• *We want to divide up all of the information which is on the Access card into a variety of sub fields so that the information can be more usefully accessed. We need to decide on what these fields will be, taking into account the following areas of concern: indexing, generating order forms, ease of updating, facilitating future overall updating of the catalog, and future integration into the Whole Earth library system.*

Figure out what will show for user

Agreed?

• *The general idea proposed by Tim Oren was that all these smaller fields be eventually hidden from the user and the relevant info for the user displayed in a pleasing manner in a single field on the Access card.*

Integrate with index

• *For the first release, how these hidden sub-fields are set up will be especially important for our indexing and search capabilities (by author, by company, by subject, by price, etc.)*

Set up separate supplier stack?

As ref. only? (not pulling into)

• *We should consider setting up a separate suppliers stack which would allow for easier updating of addresses, etc. for suppliers who have multiple items in the CD. The information from this would be pulled onto access card when we do the "freeze select" for the release version. The hidden fields would just include a code or other designation as to who the supplier is.*

Indexing

Full search or key word?

BB to decide

• *The first question is whether we want full text search capabilities, or whether we just want to do key word manual indexing. If full inverted search is wanted, then Broderbund needs to decide on who to license this from. Regardless of whether we have a full inverted search, we will need a key word index. The heart of this would be on the access card and/or the first card of each item, but how this would work programattically needs to be fully designed.*

Use heading illos

KO to design this section

• *We need to redesign the index cards, and we might want to use a set of the index heading illustrations by either Don Ryan or James Donnelly, which appear in the magazine annually.*

Context sensitive help & front matter help system/introduction.

Help vs tutorial

• *A programmer needs to develop some sort of help system (preferably context sensitive).*

## Graphics

### Full screen graphics (as pop-ups?)

☐ *

• *We want to include a fair number of full screen graphics (the larger space makes a big difference in what "works" on the Mac's limited resolution screen). The question is how to implement this. HC 1.2 allows for a form of pop-up card graphics, but in some way or other we would like to have a user open a card to see a full screen graphic with no caption or navigational devices and then be easily able to call up the caption and the navigational tools. The programmer needs to work with Kathleen to figure out the most elegant solution.*

### frame/trim covers?

☐ * OK? Where place

• *We should probably trim and/or frame all cover graphics with a box when they are inserted into the Section stacks.*

### include logo or illo instead of cover on some access cards?

yes no

☐ * KD?

• *When we do not have an adequate cover to shoot from, we could include a logo or graphic on the Access card. Do we want to do this, or just leave it blank?*

### Include some high quality (256 gray scale) graphics?

☐ * Yes, Mark/Program mor resp?

2nd Priority

• *While HyperCard and the regular Mac screen will not accomodate these high quality graphics, we could include a sampling of such graphics as second versions which would show only if the CD was being viewed on a Mac II. These higher resolution graphics could also be printed out on a laser printer.*

## Cross References

### At item level/with sticky buttons

☐ How proceed?

• *In addition to the cross-refs on the cluster maps, we want to be able to have cross-refs on the actual review cards (and the other cards at the item level?). The big question is how to implement these, given the current absence of "Sticky Buttons" (buttons which are attached to text and then move around with that text if it is moved within its field). This is an expected feature for HC 2.0, but we have to talk with Apple about whether we can use sticky buttons in our first release or not. If not, then we need to decide on an appropriate work-around.*

### Cross-refs directed at illustrations and excerpts

☐

• *We would like to be able to direct cross-refs to excerpts and illustrations. This will involve a script modification to send buttons not just to the first card in an item but to a specific card within that item.*

### Backtracking from Cross-refs

Just Instruct in Help

• *When following a cross-ref backtracking must be easy. Are the standard HyperCard features of the escape key and/or Go Recent enough?*

Structure

Survey reviews

no item titles at top of card, but would be in index

Programmer to implement

• *A survey review is a selection of related things to review which do not deserve to be free-standing items. Two or more such things would be combined into one "item" with a generic title (eg. "bicycle suppliers") and this generic title would appear at the top of each card in that "item" (though the access cards would be set up such that the name of each thing <u>would</u> appear in the index.*

identifiable accession number

Programmer to enable

• *Should there be a special characteristic of the accession number (perhaps a specific last digit or first digit?) so that the accession number will be identifiable as applying to a survey?* (Special #'s for Intros, also?)

Further readings?

Just a survey; really

• *This would be a choice on the cluster map cards that would take you into a set of Access only cards for further readings on that topic.*

Revamp scripts for maintenance

New "scaffold" for creating new items

Mike doing

• *Redesign scaffold to facilitate creating new items within sections, using correct accession numbers, etc (Hank has already started on this).*

New card creation streamlined

Mike doing

• *A script is needed for adding new cards within already existing items (even when there is not currently a card of that particular background in the item).*

Script to check accession #'s

Mike doing

• *We need to determine the place(s) to insert a script which checks that new and/or changed accession numbers are keyed correctly (by making use of the check sum digit appended to each number).*

Tools for Access

Mike to do

• *When the Access card is redone (see below) it would greatly help to have that process semi-automated to facilitate dividing up the info which is currently in one field into the several fields we will then want it in.*

Tools for Cross-referencing

Mike to do

• *Same as with Access tools above, a set of scripts to facilitate the implementing of cross-refs (see below for more complex cross-ref problems).*

Add "back-pointers" for cross-references

Mike considering may be manual

• *Can we identify all the cross refs which point to a given card so that when someone tries to delete a card which a cross-ref points to, they get told that they are about to break those links?*

## Sound

*(Note: Jonathan will be presenting a fuller proposal regarding how we should deal with the sound, but here are some of the main questions in a nutshell)*

### HC 1.2 Problem

- *HyperCard 1.2 uses more memory than does 1.1. As a result, more than 80% of the sounds which are on the current Whole Earth Learning Disc will not play under HC 1.2. We need to come to some understanding with Apple as to what constraints we need to work within to guarantee Version upgradability for our sounds, then we need to figure out how we want to do our sounds in our release version.*

### Upgrade of sound quality?

- *We have learned a lot since we digitized the sound for the WELD. We now know how to significantly upgrade its quality, but we need to decide how important this is relative to its costs and its editorial and marketingbenefits.*

### Add other sounds?

- *We also know that we want to add more sounds (and spread them more through the disc), but the same time/money/editorial/ marketing constraints apply.*

### Revise division of genres within large music suppliers

- *When we are representing music from more than one genre from a single supplier, we need to decide on an effective way to allow the user to choose among and move through those different categories.*

### Option to have sounds cue up and play automatically

do, on menu

- *The user could have the option to choose an auto-play feature which would cue up and play music and other sounds when a card is entered. They would have the option of turning this feature off (how to implement this interface choice?).*

## Editorial

### How to deal with clusters in bioregions

RN handling

- *We have a particularly thorny area in the Bioregions materials which are now in* Place. *We may want to consider some sort of unique arrangement for these materials.*

### Add introductions to each section?

JB, RN?

- *Do we want to add introductions for each section (they are in inconsistently now). Should they be located at table of contents?* Yes *Should they possibly have accompanying voice-overs?*

### Article length items

- *There are at least two article length items in the WELD (items which take up many cards, and are not actually reviews — eg. Sallie Tisdale's Abortion Article and the introduction to Mediation). We should decide whether we want to include these and/or other longer pieces, and just how we do want to include them.*

Special case: Highly Evolved Toolbox

• *A special case of the article length items is J. Baldwin's Highly Evolved Toolbox, which is a segmented longer piece with accompanying illustrations and captions. How should this be done??Should we make it a feature showing off some possibilities of HyperCard that we haven't made much use of? Should we have Don Ryan do sketch versions of the photos for the illustrations? Should we add a voiceover?*

What about updating high-tech areas

• *We will be using updated reviews from the Signal book now in production. The proposed standard is that we want what we include to be up to date, but we probably want to be fairly conservative about how much fast-changing high-tech material we include, so as not to date too quickly.*

talk w/ Ramon —

Include software demos?

Need? (possibly one for BB?)

• *Once we have a programmer, we need to look at whether we want to try and include one or more software demos on the disc. These could either be read-only files, or ones which are downloaded to a hard-disk.*

Media/Communications/Music

How to divide/~~combine~~ Media & Communications

• *We need to finalize an editorial decision about how to re-divide (or possibly re-combine?) the Media and Communications sections. Once that is decided, then we need to figure out how to implement it programatically (it seems esp. tricky to take cards from one set of backgrounds and add them to a stack with different backgrounds).*

Music as separate section

• *Related to this redivision of Media and Communications is the question of whether Music should be separated off as its own section. On the plus side, it would give more room to feature this area which is truly expanded in the CD-ROM version of the Catalog; on the minus side, it "ghettoizes" much of the sound into one section.*

Miscellaneous features

Note pad export

* what want? V 1.1? User Card Stack and/or Map

• *We need some sort of way for users to keep notes on what they have seen, so that they can find things later, etc. We may want this to include a dog-ear feature to note what items have already been viewed.*

Random access to good sounds and/or graphics?

Mike could do

• *Somehow add a feature which would allow people to randomly cruise through selected high-quality sounds and or graphics, possibly allowing them to stop off at anything which strikes their fancy.*

Build in a "registration" certificate

* Designs

• *There should be a card built into the introduction which encourages people to send a registration of ownership to Whole Earth (this could include some sort of incentive).*

Sound tours

probably Later

• *Once we have a programmer we have to again consider developing one or more sound tours through the Catalog. This would be a good feature to have, though it would probably be fairly time consuming, especially for the first one. Some of the ideas which have been considered for this are: voice over from the original blue-sky sessions at Apple (Stewart Brand, Bill Atkinson, Alan Kay, Kevin Kelly and others), a guide to the catalog by editor J. Baldwin, an intro to the music by Jonathan Evelegh.*

Auto ordering system

What/how to print out

☐ Assign resp'y tell Mike

• *We want a way for people to print out an order form for the item they are reading about (from a button on the access card). This requires a programmer to develop, and it needs to be integrated with the Access cards so that the correct info can be easily pulled.*

Need to talk with WEAC

☐ ?

• *Do we want to still continue listing Whole Earth Access as a source?*

Library Features

☐ Later

Talk w/ Steve re this

• *We had wanted to add features of interest to librarians. This has not yet been pursued and may not be possible for this version, but we do have contacts to talk with (Steve Sisler, a librarian on the WELL; Mike Liebhold at Apple).*

An easy way for users to send us their own reviews, etc.

☐ Separate Mini-stack

• *Can we include an easy to use blank mini-stack which would allow users to send us their own reviews for inclusion in an updated version of the CD?*

Cartoons

• *Can we include some sort of cartoons (perhaps interactive ones, or even with sound). Ideas included using old Co-evolution cartoons, or including a connect-the-dots image, or adding voicover to one of the cartoons already in there (eg. R. Crumb in* Four Arguments for the Elimination of Television*).*

Video frame grabbing

Next time

• *Do we want to include a sequence of frames from any of the videos we are reviewing (we can do this with the ProViz equipment we are getting via Broderbund, but it would take some time).*

At end: integrate with Magazine system

Editorial

• *Finalize set up to facilitate material from magazine being assigned Accession numbers and prepared for inclusion in CD.*

Library

• *Coordinate with library to make CD-ROM the basis for the library indexing system.*

At end: to the WELL?

• *Do we want to work to put a text-only version of the CD on the WELL? What would the advantages be? How would it be done?*